Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method to manage a file, comprising:

receiving a first request at a client to access a file having a file name;

generating an identifier for said file name by said client in response to said first request regardless of a length for said file name, with said identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name; and

sending said first request to a server with said identifier and said file name.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing said identifier and file name in memory.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an acknowledgement message from said server.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a second request at said client to access said file;

retrieving said identifier associated with said file name from said memory; and

sending said second request to said server using said associated identifier.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said first and second requests specify a file operation.

6. (currently amended) A method to manage a file, comprising:

receiving a first request at a server to access a file having a file name and identifier, said identifier to represent said file name and to comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name, with said identifier generated by a client in response to said first request regardless of a length for said file name; and

sending an acknowledgement message to said client.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

searching for location information for said file;

associating said location information with said identifier; and

storing said location information and said identifier in memory.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving a second request at said server to access said file using said identifier; and

retrieving said location information from said memory using said identifier.

9. (currently amended) A method to manage a file, comprising:

receiving a file request having a file name at a client;

generating ~~associating~~ an identifier for ~~with~~ said file name regardless of a length for said file name;

sending said identifier and said file name to a server;

searching for location information using said file name; and

storing said location information with said identifier.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising sending an acknowledgement message to said client.

11. (currently amended) A method to manage file operations, comprising:

receiving a file request with a file name by a file system interface;

generating an identifier for said file name by said file system interface in response to said first request regardless of a length for said file name, said unique identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name; and

sending said unique identifier and file name to a file system manager.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

receiving said unique identifier and said file name at said file system manager;

searching for file information using said file name; and

storing said file information using said unique identifier.

13. (currently amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a first request at a client to access a file having a file name, generating an identifier for said file name by said client in response to said first request regardless of a length for said file name, with said identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name, and sending said first request to a server with said identifier and said file name.

14. (original) The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further results in storing said identifier and file name in memory.

15. (original) The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further results in receiving an acknowledgement message from said server.

16. (original) The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further results in receiving a second request at said client to access said file, retrieving said identifier associated with said file name from said memory, and sending said second request to said server using said associated identifier.

17. (currently amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving a file request having a file name at a client, generating an

identifier for said file name by said client in response to said first request regardless of a length for said file name, said identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name, sending said identifier and said file name to a server, searching for location information using said file name, and storing said location information with said identifier.

18. (original) The article of claim 17, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in sending an acknowledgement message to said client.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus to perform file management, comprising:

a client to receive a request for a file having a file name, said client to generate a unique identifier for said file name in response to said request regardless of a length for said file name, said unique identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name, and send said unique identifier and said file name to a server; and

an interconnect system connected to said client to communicate said unique identifier and said file name to said server.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a server to receive said unique identifier and file name, said server to locate information for said file and store said information using said unique identifier.

21. (currently amended) An apparatus to perform file management, comprising:

a client to generate an identifier for a file name in response to a file request regardless of a length for said file name, said identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name;

a server to locate file information using said file name and store said file information using said identifier; and

an interconnect system to transport said file name and said identifier between said client and said server.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said client comprises an operating system service module.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said server comprises an intermediate service module.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said interconnect system operates in accordance with a peripheral component interconnect system and an I_2O system.

25. (currently amended) An apparatus to perform file management, comprising:

a file system interface to receive a request for a file having a file name and generate a unique identifier for said file name in response to said request regardless of a length for said file name, said identifier to represent said file name and comprise a fewer number of bits than said file name;

a file system manager to locate file information using said file name and store said file information using said unique identifier; and

a communications system to communicate said unique identifier and said file name between said file system interface and said file system manager.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said communications system comprises:

a communications medium comprising at least one of a group comprising twisted pair wire, co-axial cable, fiber optic and radio-frequencies; and

a communications interface to operate in accordance with a set of communication protocols.